


<b>Council Agenda Part A (Open Agenda)</b>  <b>10.06.2026</b> <b>Council Room – Level 2 ClockTower, Princes Street 22, Auckland</b> <b>4:15pm</b>		 <b>Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland</b>	Page #
<b>KARAKIA</b>	The meeting will be opened with the following karakia:		
	<p>Te Reo:  Tukua te wairua kia rere ki ngā taumata  Hei ārahi i ā tātou mahi  Me tā tātou whai  i ngā tikanga ā rātou mā  Kia mau, kia ita  Kia kore ai e ngaro  Kia pupuri  Kia whakamaua  Kia tina! TINA! Hui e! TĀIKI E!</p>	<p>English Translation:  Allow one's spirit to exercise its potential  To guide us in our work  As well as in our pursuit of our ancestral traditions  Take hold and preserve it  Ensure it is never lost  Hold fast  Secure it  Draw together - Affirm</p>	
<b>1. APOLOGIES</b>	<b>The Chancellor moves</b> that the apologies, if any, be <b>noted</b> .		
<b>2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS</b>	<p><b>2.1</b> Council Interest Register for 2026 – members are asked to advise Wendy (<a href="mailto:w.verschaeren@auckland.ac.nz">w.verschaeren@auckland.ac.nz</a>), as soon as possible when changes are required.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> In addition to the requirement for Council to complete an annual Interest Register the attention of Members is drawn to the <a href="#">Conflicts of Interest Policy</a> and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the Agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020.</p>	<b>The Chancellor moves</b> Council Interest Register for 2025 be <b>received</b> and the additional disclosures, if any, be noted and the action taken be <b>endorsed</b> .	<b>8</b>
<b>3. CONFERMENT OF DEGREES</b>	<p>In accordance with the provisions of the Conferment of Academic Qualifications and Academic Dress Statute 1992 the Chancellor will confer the degrees listed (as attached) by stating:  <i>By the authority vested in me by resolution of The University of Auckland Council I, CECILIA TARRANT, Chancellor, confer the degrees stated upon those who, within their several faculties, have satisfied the requirements of this University.</i></p>		<b>12</b>

<b>4. AWARD OF DIPLOMAS</b>	In accordance with the provisions of the Conferment of Academic Qualifications and Academic Dress Statute 1992 the Chancellor will award the diplomas listed (as attached) by stating: <i>By the authority vested in me by resolution of The University of Auckland Council I, CECILIA TARRANT, Chancellor, award the diplomas stated to those who, within their several faculties, have satisfied the requirements of this University.</i>		<b>18</b>
<b>5. HONOURS/AWARDS</b>	The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor will send congratulatory letters to those persons with links to the University.		
<b>6. COUNCIL MEETINGS</b>	6.1 <b>Council, Draft Minutes (Part A), 29.04.2026</b>	<b>The Chancellor moves</b> that the Minutes (Part A), 29.04.2026 be taken as <b>read</b> and <b>confirmed</b> .	<b>20</b>
	6.2 <b>Matters arising from the Minutes (Part A), 29.04.2026 not elsewhere on the Agenda</b>		
<b>7. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT</b>	<b>The Chancellor moves</b> that the Vice-Chancellor's Report be <b>noted</b> .		<b>25</b>
<b>8. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES</b>	8.1 <b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> 8.1.1 <b>Minutes, (Part A), 18.05.2026</b>	<b>The Chancellor moves</b> that the Finance Committee Minutes (Part A) 18.05.2026 be <b>received</b> .	<b>37</b>
	8.2 <b>AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE</b> 8.2.1 <b>Minutes, (Part A), 21.05.2026</b>	<b>The Chancellor moves</b> that the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes (Part A) 21.05.2026 be <b>received</b> .	<b>41</b>
	8.3 <b>UNIVERSITY EQUITY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (UELC)</b> 8.3.1 <b>June 2026 Report</b>	<b>The Chancellor moves</b> that the Equity Leadership Report – June 2026 be <b>received</b> .	<b>43</b>

<p><b>9. SENATE MATTERS</b></p>	<p><b>9.1 REPORT OF SENATE MEETING 25.05.2026</b></p> <p>Part A1, a-b: Policy and other matters requiring to be considered/received by Council  Part A2,1: Matters requiring Council approval  Part B, 1-6: Items to note by Council  Part C, 1-2: Matters handled under Delegated Authority</p>	<p><b>The Chancellor moves</b> that the recommendations in Part A of the Report of Senate, 25.05.2026 be <b>adopted</b> and Part B and C be <b>noted</b>.</p>	<p><b>46</b></p>
<p><b>10. CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED BY THE CHANCELLOR</b></p>	<p><b>10.1</b> Letter, 22.05.2026, from Hon Penny Simmonds</p>	<p><b>The Chancellor moves</b> that Council <b>note</b> the listed correspondence</p>	<p><b>50</b></p>
<p><b>11. OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION OR NOTING</b></p>	<p><b>11.1 SEAL</b></p> <p>Since the Council meeting on 29.04.2026 the seal has been applied to the following document in accordance with the Council resolution of 18.02.1991:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deed of Renewal of Lease- 1- 11 Short Street, Auckland - Sunshine Capital Ltd (Landlord) &amp; University of Auckland (Tenant)</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Chancellor moves</b> that the affixing of the seal to the listed document be <b>noted</b>.</p>	
	<p><b>11.2 RESCINDMENT</b></p> <p><b>11.2.1 Memorandum, 25.05.2026 from the Graduation Office</b> regarding the rescindment of a degree and re-award with the First Class Honours milestone, as per the memorandum</p>	<p><b>The Chancellor moves</b> that <b>Council rescind</b> the Master of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Degree and <b>re-award it</b> with the First Class Honours milestone, as per the memorandum</p>	<p><b>51</b></p>
	<p><b>11.3 UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND RESPONSE TO TEC DOCUMENT: <i>Research activities template for investment in 2027</i></b></p> <p><b>11.3.1</b> Memorandum, 27.06.2026 from the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation regarding Research Activities for Investment in 2027.</p> <p><b>11.3.2</b> University of Auckland response to Research activities template For Investment in 2027</p>	<p><b>The Chancellor moves that Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Approve</b> the response to the Research Activities for Investment in 2027 for submission to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC);</li> <li><b>Note</b> that TEC have issued a Supplementary Plan Guidance and Research Activities Template that responds to priorities signalled in the 23 May 2025, Government Budget, that were not available when the Plan documents were prepared for Council</li> </ul>	<p><b>52</b></p>

	<a href="#">11.3.3</a> TEC-Research-activities-template-investment-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Delegate</b> to the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations) approval to make any minor typographical and presentational changes and adjustments to respond to the Supplementary Plan Guidance.</li> </ul>	
<b>12. ELECTIONS - APPOINTMENTS</b>	None		
<b>13. GENERAL BUSINESS</b>	13.1 <b>COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES MEETING DATES 2027</b>  <b>Council Meeting dates:</b> 10.03.27 – 21.04.27 – 09.06.27 – 16.08.27 – 20.10.27 – 06.12.27 <b>Finance Committee dates:</b> 22.02.27 – 13.05.27 – 02.08.27 – 22.09.27 – 19.11.27 <b>Audit and Risk Committee dates:</b> TBC <b>Capital Expenditure Committee dates:</b> 15.03.27 – 05.08.27 – 08.10.27		
<b>14. LEAVE OF ABSENCE</b>	(for the meeting of 24.08.2026)		

## **PUBLIC EXCLUSIONS**

**The Chancellor moves** that the public be excluded from Part B of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered:

- Item No. 1.1 Council Minutes Part B 29.04.2026
- Item No. 2.1.1 Finance Committee Minutes, 18.05.2026
- Item No. 2.1.2 Financial Performance and forecast
- Item No. 2.2.1 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes, 21.05.2026
- Item No. 2.2.2 Pastoral Care Code of Practice 2025 Attestation Report
- Item No. 2.3.1 Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee – Annual report
- Item No. 2.4.1 University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee – Annual Report
- Item No. 2.4.2 University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee - membership
- Item No. 2.5.1 Animal Ethics Committee – membership

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:

The protection of the interests mentioned below.

Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution:

Those in Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 namely:

- i) To protect the privacy of the persons referred to in the recommendations and to maintain the confidentiality of those recommendations;
- ii) To enable the University to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations; and
- iii) To prevent the disclosure or use of Official Information for improper gain or advantage.

AND THAT Mark Gregory, Professors Young, and Holdaway, Tim Bluett, Gavin Scott, Helen Cattnach, Jeremy Greenbrook-Held, Anthony Brandon, and Wendy Verschaeren be permitted to remain for this part of the meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of, or need to be briefed about, the matters to be discussed. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of The University of Auckland for which those persons are responsible.

## The University of Auckland

### Interests Register for Members of UoA Council 2026

Name of Member	Interests	Updated																		
Gemma Skipper	employee of the University and having friends/family who work at UoA	19.02.2026																		
Julia Pahina	Fibre Fale Limited - CEO & Co-Founder	19.02.2026																		
Frank Bloomfield	UniServices	21.04.2026																		
Sunisha Dugar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International student at the University of Auckland</li> <li>• Employee at Auckland Council as swim instructor</li> <li>• Involved in student leadership across university contexts through clubs. Currently, Co-President of Amnesty International on campus and academic support co-ordinator for Auckland University Psychology Association.</li> </ul>	19.02.2026																		
Julia Tolmie	Employed by the University of Auckland Has family enrolled at the University of Auckland	20.02.2026																		
Cathy Quinn	i) is on the board of Fletcher Building ii) is a trustee of the Kintyre Trust with a corporate trustee Pin Twenty Limited iii) is a consultant to MERW iv) chair of Fertility Associates v) is a director of Fonterra	02.03.2026																		
Rob McDonald	Contact Energy - Chair, joined board 2015 Fleetpartners - Director, joined board 2023 Vero Insurance New Zealand - Chair, joined board 2025 Vero Liability - Chair, joined board 2025	04.03.2026																		
Jonathan Mason	Companies (Director or Major Shareholder): Zespri. NZ US Council (Chair) Chair of the Auckland Branch of the Institute of Directors and Trustee for Beloit College in Wisconsin, USA. Charitable Trusts / Public Bodies / Incorporated Societies (governance role unless otherwise noted): Dilworth Trust Board. Advisors to the Foundations: Cambridge Associates ( <i>via</i> Dilworth Trust Board) Chair of Dilworth School for Boys	28.02.2026																		
Cecilia Tarrant	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 5%;"></th> <th style="width: 25%;">Director/Officer/Shareholder</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Company/Organisation/Business Entity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>i</td> <td>Director/Shareholder</td> <td>Seeka Limited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ii</td> <td>Director and interim Chair</td> <td>Payments NZ Limited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>iii</td> <td>Chancellor</td> <td>The University of Auckland Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>iv</td> <td>Director/Shareholder</td> <td>Javan Cream Company Limited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v</td> <td>Advisory Board</td> <td>The Seriously Good Chocolate Company Limited</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Director/Officer/Shareholder	Company/Organisation/Business Entity	i	Director/Shareholder	Seeka Limited	ii	Director and interim Chair	Payments NZ Limited	iii	Chancellor	The University of Auckland Council	iv	Director/Shareholder	Javan Cream Company Limited	v	Advisory Board	The Seriously Good Chocolate Company Limited	02.03.2026
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v	Advisory Board	The Seriously Good Chocolate Company Limited																		

	vi	Trustee	Tere Waitomo Community Trust	
	viii	Executive in residence	At UABS	
	ix	Member	Diocesan Administration Council for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland and of the Investment Committee	
Candace Kinser	President of Cancer Society Auckland Northland (donor to UofA) Director and Shareholder, Sagitas Consulting Ltd Director and Shareholder, Vester Ltd BioEconomy Science Institute (as of 01.07.2025) Kiwifruit Breeding Centre (joint venture between Zespri and the Bioeconomy Science Institute) (Director from September 2025) Callaghan Innovation (from September 2025)			19.02.2026
Sam Ricketts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-Head of Investment Banking &amp; Co-Head of Investment Bank, NZ - Jarden</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Investments Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Principal Investments Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Structured Investment Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Principal Investments Picasso GP Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Nominees GP Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Nominees Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Partners Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Securities Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Management Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Private Partners Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Principal Investments Picasso PIE Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Principal Investments Red Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Custodial Services Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Finance Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden PT Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Scientific Trading Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Scientific Trading Trustee Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Nominees No2 Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Scrip Limited</li> <li>• Director - OMF Nominees Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Wealth and Asset Management Holdings Limited</li> <li>• Director - Jarden Wealth and Asset Management Limited</li> <li>• Director - Oceania and Eastern Securities Limited</li> <li>• Director - Oceania and Eastern Finance Limited</li> <li>• Director - Oceania and Securities Limited</li> <li>• Director - Janmac Capital Limited</li> <li>• Director - Quartet Equities Limited</li> <li>• Director - Maisemore Enterprises Limited</li> <li>• Director - O &amp; E Group Services Limited</li> <li>• Director - Oceania and Eastern Limited</li> <li>• Director - Oceania and Eastern Group Funds Limited</li> <li>• Director - Oceania and Eastern Holdings Limited</li> <li>• Director - Onepoto Trustee Limited</li> <li>• Director - Oceania North Limited</li> <li>• Director - Onepoto Investments Holdings Limited</li> <li>• Trustee of the Samuel Thomas Ricketts Trust</li> <li>• Trustee of the ST &amp; MFDP Ricketts Family Trust</li> <li>• Trustee of the Ricketts Family Trust</li> <li>• Trustee of the Ipipiri Nature Conservancy Trust</li> <li>• Chair of the Sacred Heart College Development Foundation Trust</li> <li>• Shareholder - Jarden Group Limited</li> </ul>			03.02.2026
Tom Irvine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acting Director - Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki (AAGToT)</li> <li>• Member - AAGToT Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Member - Hauraki Gulf Forum</li> </ul>			19.02.2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board member - MOTAT</li><li>• Māori Advisory Board - Aktive Sport Auckland</li><li>• Trustee - Taumata Toi a Iwi (Regional Arts Trust)</li><li>• Board Member - Committee for Auckland</li></ul>	
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<b>Excerpts from Council Minutes 2026</b>		
<b>Date of Council Meeting</b>	<b>Name of Member and Interest Disclosed</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
<b>16.03.2026</b>	All Council members declared their conflicts of interest regarding the Council fees item in Part B, agenda item 7.	It was agreed that these declared conflicts would not preclude the members participating in the discussions and voting.
<b>29.04.2026</b>	No further disclosures made	
<b>10.06.2026</b>		

## Council 10 June 2026

### CONFERMENT OF DEGREES

#### **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

Meilu Liu in Education

Yuanze Sun in Bioengineering

Troy Ngarangi Egan in Media, Film and Television

Lisha Wang in Applied Linguistics

Ziyi Zhuang in Applied Linguistics

Briar Jane Moana Meads in Māori Studies

Shen Zhenzhen in German

Lorenzo Anoe' in Mechanical Engineering

Gayle Patricia Humphrey in Surgery

Yiyun Wei in Food Science

Seong Hoon Yoon in Statistics

Guanhao Li in Mathematics

David Cornelis Groothuizen Dijkema in Mathematics

Alireza Sharifzadeh-Kermani in Bioengineering

**MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE (PROFESSIONAL) WITH FIRST CLASS HONOURS**

Anthony James Washer in Architecture

**MASTER OF ARTS WITH FIRST CLASS HONOURS**

Jason Caleb Malone in History

**MASTER OF BUSINESS ANALYTICS WITH DISTINCTION**

Xinyu Gao in Marketing

**MASTER OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT WITH DISTINCTION**

Yitian Jiang in Strategic Management

**MASTER OF CIVIL ENGINEERING WITH DISTINCTION**

Shuyao Liu in Civil Engineering

**MASTER OF DATA SCIENCE WITH SECOND CLASS HONOURS SECOND DIVISION**

Huai Shiang Lee in Data Science

**MASTER OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP WITH MERIT**

Jennifer Westermeyer in Educational Leadership

**MASTER OF ENGINEERING WITH SECOND CLASS HONOURS SECOND DIVISION**

Devin Banaka Mukalanyaye Ranasinghe in Mechatronics Engineering

**MASTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WITH FIRST CLASS HONOURS**

Lulin Yang in Information Technology

Congyu Zhao in Information Technology

Duyoung Jang in Information Technology

Xudong Zhang in Information Technology

**MASTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WITH SECOND CLASS HONOURS FIRST DIVISION**

Si Xiong in Information Technology

Yongbin Yang in Information Technology

**MASTER OF LAWS WITH MERIT**

Zishu Lin in Law

**MASTER OF MANAGEMENT WITH DISTINCTION**

Sneha Santwani in Marketing

**MASTER OF NURSING WITH FIRST CLASS HONOURS**

Haoran Ba in Nursing

**MASTER OF NURSING WITH SECOND CLASS HONOURS FIRST DIVISION**

Linda Elizabeth Attwood in Nursing

**MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING WITH DISTINCTION**

Zekun Zhang in Accounting

**MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING WITH MERIT**

Longtian Xie in Accounting

**MASTER OF SCIENCE WITH FIRST CLASS HONOURS**

Jamielee Drew Rogers in Psychology

Logan Douglas McDonald in Computer Science

Yuzhan Ji in Chemistry

Hongxing Yan in Biological Sciences

Annalise Salem Maive in Physics

**MASTER OF TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAK OF OTHER LANGUAGES**

Xiao Tong

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) WITH FIRST CLASS HONOURS**

Emma Jane O'Donnell in Anthropology

**BACHELOR OF MEDICAL IMAGING (HONOURS) WITH SECOND CLASS HONOURS FIRST DIVISION**

Dipasha Pragati Prasad in Medical Imaging

**BACHELOR OF ARTS**

Erica Therese Molloy

Joshua Caradon Bakker

Emma Jane O'Donnell

Sophie Lilah Fooks

Luyi Hui

**BACHELOR OF COMMERCE**

Oliver Thamer Al-Jawha

Banruo Liu

Tamanna Shehrawat

Zhuoqun Li

**BACHELOR OF LAWS**

Alexandra Carolyn de Moor

**BACHELOR OF PROPERTY**

Amy Hazel Wen Yee Johnston

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

Ladan Ghasemi

Ju Won Han

Kangyi Wang

Jincheng Zheng

Mats Jacob Veith

**BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

Ryan Neil Walker

**Council 10 June 2026**

**AWARD OF DIPLOMAS**

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS ANALYTICS**

Sparsh Vishal Varde

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SCIENCES**

Nguyet Thi Tran

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SCIENCES WITH DISTINCTION**

Cindy Yuxin Cao

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SCIENCES WITH MERIT**

Scarlett Kate Steel

Jose Arturo Espineira Iglesias

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SCIENCE**

Sovan Chap

Hugo Le Comte Murphy

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SCIENCE WITH DISTINCTION**

Finn Scarr De Haas Van Dorsser

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SCIENCE WITH MERIT**

Antonin Casadebaig

Tian Le Happy Liang

**GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY**

Jing Liu

**GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ARTS**

Jun Zhai

Ruiqi Zhang

4

**GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SCIENCE**

Fei Liu

**GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN TEACHING (ECE)**

Simpy Sharma

**GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN TEACHING (PRIMARY)**

Ashlee Nicole Wharepouri

Esther Phoebe Curnow

Sofia Nikita Pinto de Lima Martin

Catherine Joan Williams

Katie Rose Sisam


**GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN TEACHING (SECONDARY)**

Malachy Viard Sheridan

Anuraaj Singh Khangura

Roneel Ram Kumar

Katja Mihajlov

<b>Council Minutes Part A in(Open Minutes) 29.04.2026 Council Room – Level 2 ClockTower, Princes Street 22, Auckland 4:00pm</b>		 <b>Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland</b>
<b>PRESENT:</b>	Ms Tarrant (Chair), Professor Bloomfield F (Interim Vice-Chancellor), Ms Quinn, Professor Tolmie, Mr Mason, Mr McDonald, Ms Pahina, Ms Skipper, Mr Ricketts, Mr Irvine and Ms Dugar	
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Mr Gregory, Mr Bluett, Professor Holdaway, Dr Lithander, Ms Catanach, Mr Greenbrook-Held, and Ms Verschaeren	
<b>KARAKIA</b>	The meeting started with a karakia.	
<b>1. APOLOGIES</b>	Ms Kinser	<b>RESOLVED</b> (Chancellor/Vice-Chancellor): that the apologies, be <b>noted</b> .
<b>2. WELCOME</b>	The Chancellor <b>welcomed</b> Professor Frank Bloomfield, Interim Vice-Chancellor, as member of Council.	
<b>3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS</b>	<p>3.1 Council Interest Register for 2026 – members are asked to advise Wendy (<a href="mailto:w.verschaeren@auckland.ac.nz">w.verschaeren@auckland.ac.nz</a>), as soon as possible when changes are required.</p> <p>3.2 In addition to the requirement for Council to complete an annual Interest Register the attention of Members is drawn to the <a href="#">Conflicts of Interest Policy</a> and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the Agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020.</p> <p>No further disclosures were made.</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> (Chancellor/Interim Vice-Chancellor) that the Council Interest Register for 2026 be <b>received</b>.</p> <p><b>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</b></p>
<b>4. COUNCIL MEETINGS</b>	4.1 <b>Council, Draft Minutes (Part A), 16.03.2026; and</b>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> (Chancellor/ Mr Mason): that the Minutes (Part A), 16.03.2026 and special meeting, 20.02.2026 be taken as <b>read</b> and <b>confirmed</b>.</p> <p><b>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</b></p>

	<p>4.2 <b>Special Council Meeting, Minutes (Part A), 20.02.2026</b></p>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> (Chancellor/ Ms Dugar): that the Minutes (Part A), of the special meeting, 20.02.2026 be taken as <b>read</b> and <b>confirmed</b>.</p> <p><b>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</b></p>
	<p>4.3 <b>Matters arising from the Minutes (Part A), 16.03.2026 and special meeting 20.02.2026 not elsewhere on the Agenda</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p><b>5. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT</b></p>	<p>The Report was taken as read.</p> <p>The Interim Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bloomfield, presented this item.</p> <p>He advised Council of significant developments in the external research funding environment, including proposed changes to the national research funding system and the establishment of Research Funding New Zealand, a new body to allocate research funding across multiple funding streams. Indicative sector analysis suggested a material reduction in funding to universities as a result of these changes, with a substantial impact anticipated for this University.</p> <p>The implications of this funding environment for institutional strategy were noted, including the increased importance of diversifying funding sources.</p> <p>Council was informed of progress in the development of the University's proposed signature research areas. It was noted that these had been developed over an extended period through a comprehensive and rigorous process involving data analysis and engagement with staff at the University and LSRI's, including focus groups. The proposals related to the signature areas would progress to Senate via Research Committee.</p> <p>In the discussion that followed, Council was advised that the proposals were intended to provide a strategic framework for prioritising research investment, while preserving full academic freedom for individual researchers. The proposed signature research areas would be considered through the University's academic governance</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> (Chancellor/ Mr Irvine): that the Vice-Chancellor's Report be <b>noted</b>.</p> <p><b>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</b></p>

	<p>processes, including Senate, and Council would have visibility of the outcomes through the Senate Report.</p> <p>Council discussed the purpose and scope of the proposed signature research areas and was advised that they were designed to be sufficiently focused to enable strategic investment and a compelling external narrative around the University's research strengths, while remaining broad enough to support transdisciplinary research across the University.</p> <p>The framework was intended to enhance institutional agility by enabling investment to respond to emerging priorities, rather than constraining research activity. It was noted that there had been extensive opportunities for academic input into the development of the proposals.</p> <p>Council was advised of progress of the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Technology (NZIAT) bidding process relating to the establishment of an artificial intelligence research platform. It was noted that a proposal had been submitted and interviews had been completed, with outcomes expected shortly.</p> <p>Institutional guidance and adoption plans had been developed to support the appropriate use of artificial intelligence across key portfolios. Training and support initiatives for staff were being implemented, and the use of artificial intelligence was being promoted rather than mandated.</p>	
<p><b>6. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES</b></p>	<p>None</p>	
<p><b>7. SENATE MATTERS</b></p>	<p>7.1 <b>REPORT OF SENATE MEETING 13.04.2026</b></p> <p>Part A1 : Policy and other matters requiring to be considered/received by Council - None</p> <p>Part A2,1-4: Matters requiring Council approval</p> <p>Part B, 1: Item to note by Council</p> <p>Part C, 1-2: Matters handled under Delegated Authority</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> (Chancellor/Ms Pahina): that the recommendations in Part A of the Report of Senate, 13.04.2026 be <b>adopted</b> and Part B and C be <b>noted</b>.</p>

<b>8. CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED BY THE CHANCELLOR</b>	None	
<b>9. OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION OR NOTING</b>	<p>9.1 <b>SEAL</b></p> <p>Since the Council meeting on 16.03.2026 the seal has been applied to the following document in accordance with the Council resolution of 18.02.1991:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deed of Accession – Admission of Wide Bay Hospital Service to the existing Collaboration Agreement 24.1.25 – University of Auckland, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service, Austin Health and Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (the Parties to the Deed)</li> <li>• Deed of Rent Review – 6 Osterley Way, Manukau - Takahe Properties Ltd (the Landlord) and The University of Auckland (the Tenant)</li> </ul>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> (Chancellor/Mr Irvine): that the affixing of the seal to the listed document be <b>noted</b>.</p> <p><b>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</b></p>
<b>10. ELECTIONS - APPOINTMENTS</b>	None	
<b>11. GENERAL BUSINESS</b>	None	
<b>12. LEAVE OF ABSENCE</b>	<p>(for the meeting of 10.06.2026)</p> <p>Professor Tolmie and Ms Quinn advised Council that they would be attending remotely.</p> <p>The Chancellor asked that if other members could not attend or not attend in person to let the Secretary of Council know and copy the Chancellor in.</p>	

6.1

**PUBLIC EXCLUSIONS**

**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/ Ms Skipper): that the public be excluded from Part B of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered:

Item No. 1.1	Council Minutes Part B 16.03.2026
Item No. 1.2	Special Council Meeting Minutes Part B 20.02.2026
Item No. 2.1.1	Biological Safety Committee – membership
Item No. 2.2.1	Animal Ethics Committee – membership
Item No. 3	Correspondence referred by the Chancellor
Item No. 4.1	Student Enrolments - 2026 Early Outlook
Item No. 4.2	Memorandum regarding Esquires Bedell
Item No. 4.3	Appointment of a University of Auckland Trustee

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:

The protection of the interests mentioned below.

Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution:

Those in Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 namely:

- i) To protect the privacy of the persons referred to in the recommendations and to maintain the confidentiality of those recommendations;
- ii) To enable the University to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations; and
- iii) To prevent the disclosure or use of Official Information for improper gain or advantage.

AND THAT Mark Gregory, Professor Holdaway, Dr Lithander, Tim Bluett, Helen Cattnach, Jeremy Greenbrook-Held, and Wendy Verschaeren be permitted to remain for this part of the meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of, or need to be briefed about, the matters to be discussed. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of The University of Auckland for which those persons are responsible.

**The meeting closed at 5.15pm**

**The meeting went into Public Excluded session at 4.25pm**

**Approved as a true and correct record.**

## Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council | 10 June 2026

### General

#### External, Policy and Government Update

The coalition National-led Government delivered its 2026 Budget on 28 May. Due to the timing of this report, a verbal report will be provided on relevant Budget announcements.

In early pre-Budget announcements, the Government announced that the free-fee tertiary education scheme (which it previously moved from the first year to the final year) will be scrapped this year. Students completing their studies this year will still be eligible to claim their final-year fee subsidy of up to \$12,000. The scheme was introduced by the Labour coalition Government in 2017. The current Government will save approximately \$350 million annually by ending it.

In a separate pre-Budget announcement, Finance Minister Nicola Willis has announced major public sector reforms, which includes the amalgamation of government agencies and a continued gradual reduction in public service headcount.

The Government has refined its Fuel Response Plan for petrol and diesel. Under Phase 4 of the plan described as "protected with interventions to protect goods and services), tertiary education is ranked a third level (of four) community and commercial user. When announcing the plan Finance Minister Nicola Willis said modelling indicated that it would be highly unlikely that New Zealand would get to Phase 3 or 4 of the plan. At Phase 4 community users would be required to implement fuel saving plans and demand reduction measures. New Zealand is currently at Phase 1.

The University has a cross-university Incident Management Team (IMT) meeting regularly to respond to issues related to the Middle East War and possible fuel supply impacts. This includes addressing the needs of impacted students and considering travel constraints. For fuel, the government has established a 4 Phase national plan, and the country remains in the "Phase 1 Watchful" stage. National fuel supplies have been holding steady and increasing. The university has established an informational website and has developed a UoA Fuel Response Plan that outlines our actions for each phase. The plan will be under continuous review as the situation evolves.

The Government announced the signing of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India. This is billed as a major achievement for Prime Minister Christopher Luxon but has been criticised by coalition partner and Foreign Minister Winston Peters. Mr Peters has attacked immigration settings in the agreement including what he claims is "uncapped student visas when youth are unemployed." New Zealand has never had caps on international student numbers. The FTA provides for only one small change for students working here: PhD students, with STEM related degrees, will be permitted an additional year of post study work right (from three to four years).

**Internal Update**

Vice-Chancellor (Interim) Professor Frank Bloomfield assumed leadership of the University on 11 April following the departure of Professor Dawn Freshwater. As discussed with the incoming VC, he has met with all direct reports, agreeing objectives for the year, will consider recommendations from the Marketing, Communications, Recruitment and Engagement consultation review committee and will oversee the launch of the University's Signature Research Areas.

DVC-Education Professor Sarah Young and Pro-VC (Global and Graduate Research) Professor JR Rowland attended the Universitas 21 Annual Network Meeting (ANM) in Glasgow, while Professors Bloomfield and Holdaway (Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation) attended the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) in Bristol. Professor Bloomfield took the opportunity to attend and speak at a Golden Graduates lunch in London, hosted by Lady Rosemary Buchanan.

**1. Education and Student Experience****Overview**

There has been minimal change in the overall situation since the last Council meeting: EFTS are currently 9 per cent higher than at this time last year and are forecast to finish the year 5 per cent ahead of targets. We are seeing strong increases in enrolments from both domestic and international students and across all areas of the University.

Our domestic enrolments are 8 per cent above where enrolments were at this point in 2025, and 4.2 per cent ahead of where we should be at this point to hit the 2026 budget. We have had significant growth in school leavers, with enrolments currently above the 2025 end of year numbers. School leavers are 16 per cent above enrolments at this time last year.

Overall full-fee international EFTS are forecast to grow by around 14 per cent this year. International postgraduate EFTS are 6 per cent above the same time last year. All faculties appear to be benefiting from the increased International postgraduate enrolments.

Māori student enrolments increased relative to 2025. Increased enrolment from Māori has been achieved in the Foundation (up 26 per cent) and School Leaver (up 14 per cent) segments relative to 2025. Pacific student enrolments are also higher than in 2024, particularly school leavers (up 21 per cent).

Disabled learner enrolments are higher (up 3 per cent overall) relative to the start of 2024 across most segments, undergraduate and postgraduate, as well as domestic and international.

Indicators	Last Year	Current Year			
		To Date (2 April)		End of Year	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Forecast
Total EFTS	39,184	34,436	36,996	39,558	41,611
Domestic Funded	31,302	28,358	30,125	31,734	33,051
International Full Fee	6,574	5,582	6,056	6,923	7,346
% Postgraduate EFTS	27.9%	27.6%	25.7%	27.6%	27.1%

**Note:** EFTS information does not include enrolments in the ELA and other sources

#### *EFTS in priority groups*

	2024 (2 April)	2025 (2 April)	% Change
Total Māori EFTS	2,218	2,447	10.3%
Māori School leavers	411	519	26.4%
Total Pacific EFTS	2,660	3,041	14.3%
Pacific School leavers	524	710	35.5%
Total Postgraduate	8,785	9,143	4.1%
Domestic	6,658	6,830	2.6%
International	2,077	2,249	8.3%

## **Progress against priorities**

### **Priority 1: Accessible, equitable lifelong higher education opportunities**

The annual Academic Quality Review led by the DVC Education and the Academic Quality Office has completed meetings with each of the six faculty deans and a summary is being prepared. Separate, draft AQR reports have been prepared for the Pro Vice-Chancellors Māori, Pacific and Equity.

**Priority 2: Student-centric learning, co-curricular and extra-curricular cultures**

An updated Class Representation Policy and Procedures has been endorsed by the Teaching and Learning Quality Committee and Education Committee. This was developed by a working group led by the AUSA Education Vice-President and supported by the Academic Quality Office and representatives from faculties. It introduces flexibility to the class representation system to ensure full coverage for students, including those in postgraduate programmes.

**Priority 3: Education that is research-informed, transdisciplinary, relevant and with impact for the world**

The New Zealand Vice-Chancellors Committee announced the Matatāhuna | University Quality Assurance Agency to replace the former Academic Quality Agency. This implemented the recommendation of the Transitional Academic Audit Committee, on which the University was represented by the Manager Academic Quality, Dr David Hayward. A national academic quality assurance framework will be developed to guide the next round of whole-of-institution reviews (formerly referred to as 'academic audits').

**Priority 4: Graduates who make the world better tomorrow than it is today**

Between 4–7 May, 5,622 graduates were conferred degrees and diplomas at 12 graduation ceremonies held at Spark Arena. A further 2,069 qualifications were awarded in absentia, bringing the total number of qualifications conferred to 7,691.

**2. Research and Innovation**

Indicators	2025	Current Year 2026			
		To Date April 2026		End of Year	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Forecast
Research revenue (\$M)	251.6	92.3	82.6	260.6	253.1

**Note:** The revenue includes University of Auckland revenue only.

**Overview**

From mid-May to mid-June, the Acting DVC Research & Innovation, Simon Holdaway, will join a visiting delegation of University New Zealand (UNZ) colleagues to Estonia and France, and a UoA delegation to Finland and Sweden (joined by the acting PVC Research, Reputation and Performance, Nancy November after visiting Estonia). These visits will target key institutions with which there is significant potential for collaborations and to further expand Horizon Europe funding opportunities on top of established and emerging relationships. Recently, a delegation from Estonian universities visited Waipapa Taumata Rau, highlighting several shared research interests, such as precision health, ecology and advanced materials, that are prevalent across the Nordic-Baltic states. More recently, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) Ecology & Environment also visited the University of

Auckland to identify opportunities for future collaborations and Horizon Europe research bids, having established the first joint Franco-New Zealand International Research Laboratory (IRL) CliMoA (Climate, Modelling, Agroecology) with the New Zealand Bioeconomy Science Institute at the beginning of January this year.

### **Progress against priorities**

#### **Priorities 1, 2 AND 4: World-class research inspired by our place in Aotearoa and the Pacific, A global powerhouse of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship AND Ambitious research confronting humanity's greatest challenges.**

Final proposals for the Signature Research Areas (SRAs) have now been considered by the University Research Committee (URC), with the Strategic Research and Innovation Advisory Group (SRIAG) endorsing a suite of six SRAs, to be submitted to the University Executive Committee (UEC) for final approval in late May.

Planning for the internal launch is well underway, with an announcement anticipated in mid-June, followed by University-wide roadshows commencing from 30 June. Work is progressing with the University's brand agency to develop a unified narrative and visual identity for the SRAs, alongside supporting materials to enable clear and consistent communication.

In parallel, development of the governance and investment approach is advancing, with an approach being established to support implementation and delivery.

#### **Priorities 5 AND 6: Nurturing, recruiting and retaining outstanding research talent AND A research ecosystem characterised by collaboration, agility, simplicity, engagement, and empowerment.**

The Office of the PVC Māori has interviewed a high calibre cohort of applicants for the Director of the James Henare Centre (which leads the Māori research ecosystem for the University) and for the Associate Pro Vice Chancellor Māori Research (who will provide strategic leadership for the University). Appointments should be confirmed in the coming weeks.

The Research Management Solution (RMS) project continues to progress through User Acceptance Testing (UAT), with researchers, research support staff and operational teams participating in end-to-end testing. Feedback has helped to refine workflows, identify support needs and strengthen business readiness for go-live in Q3. The project remains focused on delivering a quality implementation experience. The project team is working with key stakeholders to establish business change needs following UAT sign-off at the end of May. This may result in adjustments to some delivery timeframes.

The Evolution of Research Services (ERS) programme will evolve research services at the University to respond to fundamental changes in the internal and external landscape, including the new funding strategy for the New Zealand science system, the University Research Centre mid-term review, and the increasingly complex support needs of large consortia and programme grants, including, but not limited to, Horizon Europe.

### 3. Partnerships and Engagement

#### Overview

The University has built significant momentum with the school leaver segment, having engaged with over 150 secondary schools in 2026. School-leaver leads are up 23 per cent year-on-year, with significant regional increases in Bay of Plenty (+26 per cent), Northland (+100 per cent), and Wellington (+154 per cent). This activity is translating into early Semester One 2027 application growth, with domestic applications up by 9.66 per cent year-on-year, and international applications up 55.4 per cent year-on-year.

#### Priority 1: Strengthen and deepen our relationships with tangata whenua.

The University is delivering a strengthened suite of Māori targeted school leaver offerings for 2026. Whāia Te Pae Tawhiti, which hosts taura Māori from across New Zealand during Mānawa Mai week, has received 59 applicants to date, for 30 available places.

Over 400 Māori and Pacific learners across Auckland have registered for Term 2 maths and science tutoring, delivered by the University through five Pacific Academy locations.

The Waipapa Ōhanga Rau programme, which supports year 11-13 students, is tracking to support 600 taura Māori in 2026.

#### Priority 2: An ambitious and relevant partner that is globally networked.

The University participated in the FAUBAI (Brazilian Association for International Education) conference, themed Internationalisation for a Multipolar World, on 12-15 April, and the U21 Annual Network Meeting and Leadership Summit in Glasgow on 20-23 April. The purpose was to advance relationships with Pontificia Universidad de Chile, Universidad de Los Andes, Biopark Paraná, KU Leuven, Durham University, and with other select members of the U21 network.

#### Priority 3: Deep engagement with diverse Aotearoa and Asia-Pacific communities.

The Media Impact Report for Q1 2026 shows increasing levels of media presence and impact for the University. Key metrics include:

- Volume: total NZ media coverage for the University in Q1 was 5,352 news items, equating to a 31 per cent share of voice (compared to 5,302 news items and 28 per cent share of voice in Q4 2025) and putting the University a full 10 percentage points above second-place Otago, at 21 per cent. This is the first time the University has passed the 30 per cent mark for share of voice.
- Tone: Overall, 99 per cent of media coverage about the University in Q1 was either very positive (40 per cent), positive (46 per cent) or neutral (13 per cent), with negative coverage at 1 per cent.
- Story driver: A total of 46 per cent of media coverage in Q1 comprised expert academic commentary on topical issues, with a further 25 per cent relating to the value and impact of the University's research.

- Origin of Coverage: Proactive media engagement increased in Q1, with 71 per cent of media stories generated either by proactive (35 per cent) media engagement (e.g. media releases) or Facilitated (36 per cent) support to academics and journalists (e.g. responses to media enquiries). The remaining 29 per cent was media-driven (i.e. content not initiated or influenced by the University). Notably, 71 per cent is the highest proportion of proactive/facilitated engagement the University has recorded.

#### **Priority 4: Enduring relationships with prospective students, students, alumni and donors**

The University of Auckland 2025 Annual Report to Donors was published at the end of March and distributed as a printed book to 1,200 top tier donors in April, with all other donors receiving a digital version through ARD's April issue of Donor News. The report highlighted the exceptional number of gifts in 2025, a total of 4,951 gifts from 2,788 donors, compared with 3,208 gifts from 1,439 donors in 2024.

The University's Taumata event on 2 May honoured Distinguished Alumni recipients with 445 attending.

#### **Priority 5: Diverse student body reflecting our communities.**

The University's Student Ambassador Programme (Schools and Community Engagement) was named a finalist for the 2026 Diversity Awards NZ Youth Employer Award. Independently nominated by a Student Ambassador, the programme employs around 100 students as paid brand ambassador.

The University recently upgraded and enhanced its STEM Online platform to remain curriculum-aligned and relevant for educators and learners, including the incorporation of the new NCEA Level 3 Calculus standards and the new Year 9-10 numeracy co-requisites.

#### **Priority 6: Recognised and valued by our communities for the contributions we make towards a more sustainable future for all.**

The Planetary Solutions initiative, which showcases the University's contributions to sustainability solutions, has developed a strong audience from a standing start in October 2025, with approximately 150,000 unique page views within its first six months. There have also been multiple instances where Planetary Solutions coverage has prompted follow-up reporting by other media outlets, including RNZ.

## **4. Enabling our People and Culture**

### **Overview**

This period has continued a focus on progressing key people system enhancements and advancing priority initiatives that support leadership capability, workforce development, and organisational performance. Hono Phase 2 continues to track to schedule, with strong early adoption and positive staff feedback on core functionality, and attention now shifting to embedding development planning and feedback practices as an organisational capability uplift. Progress continues across all People and Culture priorities, including strengthening values-led leadership, advancing future workforce capability, progressing organisational reviews to support equity and performance outcomes, and activating wellbeing and support initiatives for the University community.

**Hono Phase 2**

Key milestones for Hono Phase Two continue to progress to schedule:

- Advanced Compensation and Succession Planning will go live in June 2026.
- Adoption metrics indicate staff are navigating the system, knowledge base, and intranet materials easily.
- Development planning and feedback processes will be monitored for usage.
- Resources are being extended to provide additional support for SASR, development planning, and calibration.

**Progress against priorities:****Priority 1: Live our values and purpose**

Values-led culture activity continues with leadership expectations embedded through refreshed performance and development processes.

**Priority 2: Develop a future-ready workforce**

Professional staff have set their Tupu goals for the year, with Tupu now live in Hono. Communications have reinforced expectations around development planning and continuous performance conversations. Managers have been advised to proceed with goal setting as planned, with flexibility to refine goals as priorities evolve.

The Future Academic Workforce project team are working through the details to support the defined Role Architecture and Career Pathways and is in the process of identifying the nature and extent of changes required to support frameworks. A pan-university working group is supporting this work.

**Priority 3: Build a high-performing, diverse, inclusive and equitable community**

The review of Communications, Engagement, Marketing and Recruitment Function across the University (Faculties and Service Divisions) is underway. Consultation underway on a proposed new structure closed on 4 May 2026. The review and confirmation process is set to conclude in early July 2026.

**Priority 4: Activate manaakitanga, whanaungatanga and kaitiakitanga across our People and Culture practices**

Auckland Transport's FareShare initiative went live on 6 May 2026. Through University engagement, staff and students will receive a 25 per cent and 40 per cent discount respectively.

## 5. Our Enabling Environment

### Overview

Indicators	Last Year 2025	Current Year 2026			
		To Date April 2026		End of Year	
	Actual	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Forecast
Total revenue (\$M)	1601.1	1076.1	874.2	1626.7	1670.0
Revenue achieved as a % of budget	102%	100%	81.2%	100.0%	102.7%

### Progress against priorities:

#### **Strategic Priority 1: Create Mana-enhancing experiences for our communities through effective, efficient, and valued operations and services**

##### ***Proactive development and improvement of services and operations to meet the needs of our diverse communities:***

- The Academic Heads Experience Improvement (AHEI) project has commenced the phased roll-out of a new AI tool (TUI) to all Academic Heads to better meet their need for delivering access in a user-friendly format to support decision-making and operational management of their Schools and Departments. Key datasets will be made available via four distinct 'releases' scheduled throughout the year.
- The Finance team is collaborating with AHEI on the production and implementation of a new set of budgeting and forecasting dashboards to meet the operational needs of Academic Heads as identified through the work of the AHEI project. The AHEI project is also collaborating with Process Owners across the Enabling Environment to reduce the administrative ("approval") burden on Academic Heads. Digital Services and Students & Scholarly Services, are currently working on the potential removal and/or streamlining of over 30 processes.

##### ***Prioritising improvement of student experiences through personalised services, student support and wellbeing frameworks and a welcoming, vibrant environment:***

- Work to improve the student experience and enhance support has delivered on a number of fronts over the last few months, particularly in the digital domain. This continues to focus on outcomes to improve the recruitment, application, enrolment, and inquiry experiences for students and prospective students. This includes:
  - Working through changes to systems and processes to reflect faculty restructures in order to reduce manual work and risks in admissions and enrolment and ensure our core systems are accurate.
  - Enhanced support channels for students, decreasing repeat enquiries and boosting staff efficiency through AskAuckland and customer enquiry improvements.

- Improved automation and reporting for University admissions, enabling better demand management and informed decisions.
- Implementation of a new payment option for international students providing more options for international students and reduced reliance on one provider.

**Priority 2: Deliver a distinctive, capable, and flexible people-centred environment that celebrates our place in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific**

***Delivery of the approved Property and Digital Capital Programme:***

- B230: Law & Performing Arts: The project is six weeks ahead of programme. As yet there has been no impacts as a result of the Middle East conflict and fuel crisis, but this is being carefully monitored.
- Carlaw Park Student Accommodation Stage 4: Foundation works are complete, erection of the structural steel frame and pouring of concrete floors continues to programme. Impacts on adjacent daycare and student accommodation is being managed.
- Grafton B525 Research facility: Steering and Reference Groups are now established to provide project governance.
- Fale refurbishment and upgrade: Works are scheduled to commence on site in September 2026.
- S300 Student Centre and Library: The consent application has been submitted and engagement is underway with key internal and external stakeholders. Enabling Project decanting from B311 Student Union Buildings into B315 KEIC and B104 OCH has commenced.
- Centre for High Performance Engineering: Council approved the business case in March and design work is progressing.
- RAM and AI-related components continue to drive significant cost escalation and extended lead times for technology hardware products. The University's proactive bulk procurement executed in March has resulted in a materially higher avoided cost of approximately \$3.3M (previously anticipated to be \$1M), reflecting the continued and rapid rise in underlying component pricing.
- The implementation of PlanOn replaces the current INSITE platform and establishes a modern, integrated capability for managing the University's estate.

***Estate Planning activities (Property and Digital):***

- Planning activities continue for the Kohanga Reo replacement and the development of the Newmarket campus.
- The Tai Tokerau Campus Steering Group advised a preference to proceed with a new-build solution on a site. Options are being explored with Whangārei District Council.
- Establishing a Teaching and Learning Spaces Working Group.
- Undergraduate teaching laboratory capacity study completed and initiating feasibility study of B303 podium conversion for large format undergraduate lab teaching.
- The Finance Transformation Programme is moving ahead and negotiating with preferred vendors and solution implementation partners is on track for selection by the end of the year.

**Priority 3: Actively continue and measure progress towards overall sustainability and net-zero carbon status**

- Carbon emissions internal audit is under way.
- The Carbon Neutral Government Programme dashboard data is finalised and will go to the Minister through the Ministry for Energy (MfE). MfE will officially release the dashboard later in the year.

**Priority 4: Enable long-term operational sustainability and resilience for the University through careful stewardship and planning and by enabling revenue growth**

- The University continues to actively manage financial sustainability in the context of ongoing economic volatility and growth pressures, with a continued focus on balancing service demand with affordability.
- Support of frontline and student-facing areas which are experiencing sustained high demand following two years of enrolment growth are a key area of focus for management.
- The 3+9 forecast in Part B of the Council agenda outlines the financial outlook for 2026 to 2028 and highlights the key risks and opportunities presented through the current operating and economic environments.

Frank Bloomfield  
Vice-Chancellor (Interim)

**Appendix One: University Gifts and Pledges [March 2026]**

The following major new gifts and pledges were received by ARD in March 2026, totalling \$7,860,409:

- \$5,000,000 from The Tautoko Trust for research at the Liggins Institute
- \$1,000,000 from an anonymous donor for scholarships for students studying in both the Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours) programme and Psychological Medicine at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$314,418 from the Neuro Research Charitable Trust (Cure Parkinson's NZ) to support a medicinal chemist at the Centre for Brain Research for Parkinson's disease research
- \$267,180 from the Estate of John Scott Werry for schizophrenia research at the Liggins Institute
- \$187,500 from Cure Kids for the Chair in Child and Youth Mental Health at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$172,386 from the Vision Research Foundation for a Senior Fellowship in Ophthalmology at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$147,000 from the Vernon Tews Education Trust for a PhD Scholarship in Pharmacy at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$122,527 from the Spencer Foundation for the 'Zoning Reform and Educational Access in Auckland' project at the Business School
- \$100,000 from the Associated New Zealand Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Society for the 'Unravelling Immunometabolic Signatures of Immune Dysfunction' study at the Liggins Institute
- \$97,500 from the Freemasons Foundation for Paediatric Palliative Care short courses at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$81,383 from the Auckland Hospitals Research and Endowment Fund for research at the Liggins Institute
- \$74,589 from Istar Limited for the 'Using extracellular vesicles from human first trimester placentae to treat ovarian cancer' study at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$73,383 from Cancer Research Trust New Zealand for the 'Confirming the therapeutic potential of placental extracellular vesicles in ovarian cancer using patient-derived organoids' study at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$47,652 from the Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation for the Borrin Foundation Te Pe Tawhiti Postgraduate Scholarship at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$45,359 from The Kelliher Charitable Trust for a Health Economics PhD scholarship as part of the Newborn Genomics Project at the Liggins Institute
- \$45,000 from WeBuild NZ Ltd for a masters scholarship at Engineering and Design
- \$30,000 from Alliv Samson and Hengie Wang to support the Velocity Programme and other CIE initiatives at the Business School
- \$28,050 from the Schlumberger Stichting Fund for research at Engineering and Design
- \$26,482 from the Estate of John Michael Render Young for the University of Auckland Strategic Endowment

Finance Committee MINUTES | PART A  
 18 May 2026  
 HYBRID | Council Meeting Room and via Zoom  
 8:00 am to 10:00 am



<p><b>Present:</b> Sam Ricketts (Chair), Cecilia Tarrant, Gemma Skipper, and online via Zoom Rob McDonald, Julia Pahina, Tom Irvine and Sunisha Dugar  <b>In Attendance:</b> Mark Gregory, Tim Bluett, Cameron Thomas, Helen Cattnach, Patricia Yap and Ruwani Dharmawardana</p>		
<p><b>Opening Remarks</b>                  The Chair thanked the former Chair, Mr McDonald for his valuable contribution, with appreciation for his ongoing support.</p>		
<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p>	<p>Apologies were received from Professor Julia Tolmie. Professor Bloomfield was also not in attendance at this meeting.</p>	
<p><b>2. Disclosures of Interest</b></p>	<p>The attention of Members was drawn to the Conflicts of Interest Policy and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020.                  No further disclosures were made.</p>	
<p><b>3. Minutes of Finance Committee of 26.02.2026</b></p>	<p><b>Item No 3.1: Minutes, Part A 26.02.2026</b>  <b>Item No 3.2:</b> Matters Arising from the Minutes, Part A, not elsewhere on the agenda.                  No matters were discussed that needed further attention, as part of the follow-up from the previous meeting.</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED (Chair   Cecilia Tarrant)</b> that the Minutes, Part A, of the Finance Committee held on 26.02.2026 be taken as read and confirmed.</p>

8.1

**4. Other Matters for Decision or Noting**

**Financial Performance Summary**

University & UniServices	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026		
			Forecast	Budget	var
<b>EFTS</b>					
Domestic	30,008	31,302	33,051	31,734	1,317
International	5,699	6,574	7,345	6,923	422
Other	896	1,308	1,214	901	313
	<b>36,603</b>	<b>39,184</b>	<b>41,610</b>	<b>39,558</b>	<b>2,052</b>
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure (\$m)</b>					
TEC funding	424	441	440	440	0
Fees	432	501	576	553	22
PBRF/Other	132	146	148	130	18
	<b>988</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>41</b>
T&R Expenditure	435	463	495	481	(15)
T&R Contribution	552	625	669	643	26
Research Revenue	288	251	258	264	(6)
Research Expenditure	253	223	245	231	(14)
Research Contribution	35	28	13	34	(21)
Other revenue	264	262	248	239	9
People Costs & Opex	632	636	635	643	7
Depreciation	186	234	238	241	2
Other contribution	(553)	(608)	(626)	(644)	19
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>23.9</b>
University	22.6	37.3	55.7	31.5	24.2
UniServices	11.0	7.7	0.5	0.7	(0.2)
Fair value and other intercompany adjustments	(14.7)	(0.6)	(18.2)	(18.2)	0.0
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>23.9</b>

This is the first forecast of the year, reflecting actual results and enrolments as at 31 March. Forecasts and University & UniServices 2024 2025 2026 Actual comparatives in the table show the consolidation of the University and UniServices, excluding the Foundation.

The forecast Operating Surplus is \$56.1m, an upside of \$23.9m compared to budget of \$32.2m.

Revenue is supported by stronger than budget enrolments and associated tuition and fee income.

Costs are tracking above budget, reflecting service delivery requirements for higher activity volumes and ongoing inflationary pressures.

The Government funding environment remains constrained, and the forecast assumes current settings continue while recognising that sector funding parameters may evolve.

The University continues to hold a strong liquidity position with low debt metrics in accordance with TEC risk framework.

The fair value and other intercompany adjustments are non-cash and do not relate to underlying university operations.

<p><b>5. Leave of Absence</b></p>	<p>The Chair noted that no apologies had been received for the 11 August 2026 meeting and advised members to inform the Committee Secretary in advance if they are unable to attend.</p>	
<p><b>6. Public Exclusions</b></p>	<p>The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:</p> <p>General subject of each matter to be considered:</p> <p><b>Item No 7.1: Finance Committee Meeting 26 February 2026, Minutes Part B</b></p> <p><b>Item No 7.2: Matters Arising from the Minutes, Part B, not elsewhere on the agenda.</b></p> <p><b>Item No 8.0: Treasury Management, Compliance and Cash Flow Report</b></p> <p><b>Item No 9.0: Financial Performance and 3+9 Forecast 2026 to 2028</b></p> <p>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter: The protection of the interests mentioned below.</p> <p>Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution: Those in Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) To protect the privacy of the persons referred to in the recommendations and to maintain the confidentiality of those recommendations; and</li> <li>ii) To enable the University to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations; and</li> <li>iii) To prevent the disclosure or use of Official Information for improper gain or advantage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>RESOLVED (Chair   Gemma Skipper)</b> that the public be excluded from Part B of this meeting AND THAT Mr Gregory, Mr Bluett, Mr Thomas, Ms Cattanaach, Ms Yap, and Ms Dharmawardana be permitted to remain for this part of the meeting, after the public be excluded, because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed.</p> <p>This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of the University of Auckland for which those persons are responsible.</p>

8.1

**The meeting moved into a Public Excluded session at 08.09 am.**

**The meeting closed at 9.25 am.**

**Approved as a true and correct record.**

**Sam Ricketts, Chair**

**Date:**

**8.1**

Audit and Risk Committee MINUTES | PART A  
 21 May 2026  
 HYBRID | Council Meeting Room and via Zoom  
 8.00 am to 10.50 am



<p><b>Present:</b> Cathy Quinn (Chair), Jonathan Mason, and Candace Kinser</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Mark Gregory, Tim Bluett, Rachelle Miller, Brent Penrose, Michelle Yu, Murtaza Ali, James Harper, Jason Mangan, Andrew Phipps, Laretta Congdon, Stefanie Boyer, and Ruwani Dharmawardana; and online via Zoom: Professor Frank Bloomfield, Philip Whitmore, Matthew Preece and Angus Clark.</p>		
<b>1. Apologies</b>	Apologies were received from Cecilia Tarrant and Rob McDonald.	
<b>2. Disclosures of Interest</b>	<p>The attention of Members was drawn to the Conflicts of Interest Policy and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020.</p> <p>No further disclosures were made.</p>	
<b>3. Minutes of Audit and Risk Committee of 03.03.2026</b>	<p><b>Item No 3.1: Minutes, Part A 03.03.2026</b></p> <p><b>Item No 3.2:</b> Matters Arising from the Minutes, Part A, not elsewhere on the agenda.</p> <p>No matters were discussed that needed further attention, as part of the follow-up from the previous meeting.</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED (Chair   Jonathan Mason)</b> that the Minutes, Part A, of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 03.03.2026 be taken as read and confirmed.</p>
<b>4. Other Matters for Decision or Noting</b>	None	
<b>5. Leave of Absence</b>	<p>The Chair noted the apology received from Candace Kinser for the 14 September 2026 meeting while on leave of absence from 7 August to 7 November and further noted that appropriate arrangements will be considered to maintain quorum during this period. The Chair advised members to inform the Committee Secretary in advance if they are unable to attend.</p>	

8.2

<p><b>6. Public Exclusions</b></p>	<p>The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:</p> <p>General subject of each matter to be considered:</p> <p><b>Item No 7.1: Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 3 March 2026, Minutes Part B</b></p> <p><b>Item No 7.2: Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 3 March 2026, Matters Arising from Minutes, Part B</b></p> <p><b>Item No 8.0: Combined Assurance Report</b></p> <p><b>Item No 9.0: Internal Audit Programme</b></p> <p><b>Item No 10.0: Pastoral Care Code of Practice (PCCP)</b></p> <p><b>Item No 11.0: Insurance Renewal Planning</b></p> <p><b>Item No 12.0: Health &amp; Safety Programme</b></p> <p><b>Item No 13.0: Digital Programme</b></p> <p><b>Item No 14.0: Enterprise Risk Programme</b></p> <p>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter: The protection of the interests mentioned below.</p> <p>Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution: Those in Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) To protect the privacy of the persons referred to in the recommendations and to maintain the confidentiality of those recommendations; and</li> <li>ii) To enable the University to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations; and</li> <li>iii) To prevent the disclosure or use of Official Information for improper gain or advantage.</li> </ul>	<p><b>RESOLVED (Chair   Jonathan Mason)</b> that the public be excluded from Part B of this meeting AND THAT Professor Bloomfield, Mr Gregory, Mr Bluett, Ms Miller, Mr Penrose, Ms Yu, Mr Ali, Mr Harper, Mr Mangan, Mr Phipps, Mr Clark, Ms Boyer, Ms Congdon, Mr Whitmore, Mr Preece and Mrs Dharmawardana be permitted to remain for this part of the meeting, after the public be excluded, because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed.</p> <p>This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of the University of Auckland for which those persons are responsible.</p>
<p><b>The meeting moved into a Public Excluded session at 08.06 am. The meeting closed at 10.05 am. Approved as a true and correct record</b></p> <p><b>Cathy Quinn, Chair Date:</b></p>		



## University Equity Leadership Committee Mid-Year Report to Council June 2026

### 1. University Equity Leadership Committee (UELC) meetings

*Note: This mid-year report summarises key governance, policy, and strategic developments discussed by the University Equity Leadership Committee (UELC) to date in 2026.*

#### 1.0 Plans, Strategies and Reporting

##### 1.1 Gender Pay Gap 2025 Report (GPG)

UELC endorsed the University's third [Gender Pay Gap \(GPG\) 2025 Report](#) released late April. The GPG report shows the current data on gender, and gender-ethnicity pay gaps across the University. Overall, the gender pay gap is 6.3%, a decrease from 11.9% in 2024 and 10.8% in 2023. Stats NZ confirm the nationwide gender pay gap as 5.2% in 2025. Increased transparency and awareness among decision-makers, and incremental improvements are likely contributors to the observed changes.

While reduction is positive, the data also highlight areas where inequities persist for specific staff groups and several ethnic communities. UELC will continue to monitor gender pay gaps and receive reporting to ensure sustained progress.

##### 1.2 Gender Equity Strategy and Plan 2026-2029 (GESP)

Endorsed by UELC and approved by the Vice-Chancellor (Interim), this outlines a coordinated programme of work to address drivers of gender pay gaps across four workstream areas identified by HR DEI and OPVCE:

- Fair recruitment
- Career progression
- Accessible resources and learning opportunities, and
- Evaluation, transparency, and continuous improvement.

The GESP will be led and implemented by the HR Leadership Team. It consolidates and provides visibility of work already in progress across the University and identifies future work to be undertaken.

The Gender Action Plan (GAP) Group established to support the development of the Gender Equity Strategy and Plan has now completed its work and a Gender Equity Reference Group will be formed this year to provide ongoing feedback and advice to the HR Leadership Team on implementation of the GESP.

### 1.3 DEI Strategy and Plan 2025-2028

The Office of Pro Vice-Chancellor, Equity (OPVCE) are working with portfolio owners and the Associate Deans and Directors, Equity to embed the strategy elements of the University's first [DEI Strategy and Plan 2025-2028](#) across the University.

The Strategy aims to improve experiences for students and staff across diverse backgrounds and identities, while clearly signalling the University's commitment to building and making visible an equitable and inclusive environment. UELC provides ongoing oversight of implementation to support consistent embedding across the University.

## 2.0 DEI related Policies

The University's first [Reasonable Accommodations for Disability Policy](#) and [Procedures](#) went into effect in December 2025 and are recognised as sector leading. Implementation is supported through ongoing training and awareness activity across the University.

## 3.0 Key Equity Networks and Strategic Projects

*The PVC Equity provides UELC with highlights of discussions at meetings of the Equity Action Network (EAN), the Disability Action Plan Reference Group (DAPRG), and the Religion and Belief Reference Group (RBRG), which all report to UELC.*

The **Equity Action Network** (EAN) discussed analysis of Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) data spanning more than 150,000 records across two years, which did not detect widespread gender or ethnicity bias at an aggregate level. Members emphasised the importance of data literacy and cautioned against misinterpretation of single-year data, noting that longer-term and contextualised analysis is critical for equity-related decision-making.

UELCL noted that the **Disability Action Plan Reference Group** continues to be a critical partner in strengthening accountability for delivery of the Disability Action Plan. Monitoring and reporting activity was noted as meeting external regulatory expectations. UELC reaffirmed the value of DAPRG's ongoing role in advising on implementation and continuous improvement.

The **Religion and Belief Reference Group** is a newly established group reporting to UELC and co-facilitated through OPVC Equity and OPVC Māori. The RBRG will provide advice and feedback to support and strengthen equity, wellbeing, and belonging for people of all faiths and beliefs, including non-religious beliefs. The group brings together diverse perspectives from staff and student communities.

#### 4.0 **UELC member updates**

UELCL discussions during this reporting period highlighted several themes relevant to equity, diversity, and inclusion; and institutional performance.

##### **Student experience and support capacity**

Members noted generally positive student engagement and sentiment, alongside increasing pressure on teaching and support systems due to higher enrolment volumes. UELC discussed the importance of clear communication and responsive process adjustments, particularly to support students with disabilities and special conditions for tests and exams, with Teaching and Learning continuing to play a key role.

##### **Leadership, representation, and engagement**

Work is underway to strengthen coordination of Tauira Māori leadership across the University, to support effective representation and engagement. Members also noted continued growth and engagement in the University's six recognised staff networks, contributing to connection, visibility, and staff voice, and informing broader people-related initiatives, including the People and Culture Strategy and Plan.

##### **Data, monitoring, and transparency**

Progress was noted in developing a new dashboard to support reporting on student and staff outcomes aligned with the Māori Strategy and *Kawea Ake*, including the development of qualitative reporting capability. UELC reaffirmed the importance of longitudinal data to support robust equity analysis, including planned introduction of five-year rolling promotion outcomes to strengthen transparency and understanding of gender equity in academic progression.

##### **Staff experience and organisational climate**

Members observed some improvements in staff engagement survey results, while recognising that experiences remain uneven across different parts of the University and for different staff communities. UELC noted the importance of using engagement data alongside other insights to inform targeted action and ongoing monitoring.

#### **5.0 Recommendation:**

1. That Council **note** receipt of the University Equity Leadership Committee 2026 mid-year report.

## 9.1

## THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

## MATERIAL FOR COUNCIL FROM the MEETING OF SENATE 25.05.2026

*Note: Senate, 13.04.2026 asked an amendment of the minutes of the meeting of 13.04.2026: Item 14.a regarding Freedom of Expression (FoE) in those minutes did not include a summary of the proposal that Professor Hunter had presented. It was requested that the minutes be amended to include a summary of his proposal made to support implementation of the FoE Statement and to clarify the outcome of the discussion.*

*Senate also asked to clarify who the recipients were of the email requesting expressions of interest to join the proposed working group. The confirmation of the minutes, 13.04.2026 was deferred to the meeting of 27.07.2026.*

**PART A:****1. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE REQUIRING TO BE CONSIDERED/RECEIVED BY COUNCIL**

- a) **Review of the School of Music**  
Senate 25.05.2026 RECOMMENDS to Council that it receive the Review of the School of Music
- b) **Review of the Department of Physics – Two-year Progress Report**  
Senate 25.05.2026 RECOMMENDS to Council that it receive the Review of the Department of Physics – Two-year Progress Report as final response to the 2023 Review

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE REQUIRING COUNCIL CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL****ACADEMIC MATTERS AND REGULATIONS****1. REGULATION AMENDMENTS**

**Senate, 25.05.2026 RECOMMENDS that Council approve the following Regulation Amendments:**

- a) **Regulation Amendment 2026-904: 2026 Postgraduate application closing dates for admission**  
To remove the Later Year Intake closing date for the Master of Information Technology and the Postgraduate Certificate in Information Technology and the Master of Information Technology.
- b) **Regulation Amendment 2026-905: 2026 application closing dates for admission**  
To amend the application deadline for the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Psychology (PGDipHealthPsych) from November 1st to September 1st.

**c) Regulation Amendment 2026-906: Academic and General Statutes and Regulations – Postgraduate Diplomas**

1. To amend the preamble of the General Regulations - Postgraduate Diplomas
2. To amend the Distinction and Merit clauses.

**PART B: ITEMS FROM SENATE FOR NOTING BY COUNCIL**

**1. Freedom of Expression (FoE) Working Group – update by the Registrar, Mr Gregory**

He advised Senate that a call for expressions of interest had been circulated to academic and professional staff, inviting self-nominations to join the working group tasked with supporting the implementation of the FOE statement.

The working group would focus on developing mechanisms, including appropriate ways, to give effect to the principles of the FoE Statement and to make recommendations on implementation within an indicative timeframe.

An update was provided on the level of response received, including expressions of interest from academic staff, professional staff and student representatives.

It was further noted that membership of the working group would be determined following a selection process, to be undertaken with the aim of ensuring appropriate representation.

In the discussion that followed Senate was advised that an issue had been identified with the original distribution list, which may have resulted in some staff not receiving the call for expressions of interest. It was confirmed that additional self-nominations would be accepted from individuals who had not received the original communication.

**Senate, 25.05.2026 noted the update regarding the Freedom of Expression (FoE) Working Group**

**2. University Research Committee minutes**

Senate was asked to note the following as part of the University Research Committee minutes:

- The memo on Signature Research Areas;
- 9.i Graduate Research Committee Minutes, 30.03.2026
- 9.ii Doctoral Programmes Report 2026
- 9.iii University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship Report March 2026

Senate considered the accompanying material relating to Signature Research Areas (SRAs), noting that these were intended to provide a framework to strengthen collaboration, enhance research impact, and support competitiveness for national and international funding, while not limiting existing research activity or prioritising particular disciplines over others.

It was noted that a concern had been raised that some researchers might not see their work reflected within the proposed SRAs and that there was a risk that SRAs could be perceived as representing the totality of the University's research activity. It was emphasised that careful communication would be required to ensure that SRAs were understood as an additional framework rather than a replacement for existing research activity or support mechanisms.

In response, Senate noted that the SRAs were intended to complement existing research structures and funding mechanisms and would not replace or redirect existing support. Faculties and Research Institutes would continue to determine their own priorities and manage existing funding streams.

Senate also noted that extensive consultation had informed the development of the SRAs and that further work would be undertaken to establish an operational model, including opportunities for academic leadership and participation.

A review process would be implemented following initial establishment to ensure the SRAs remained effective and responsive.

A member queried why Senate was not being asked to vote on the SRAs so that advice could be passed to Council. It was clarified that as the SRAs are a management decision and thus will not go to Council for approval, Senate's role is to provide feedback to management rather than advice to Council.

**Senate, 25.05.2026, noted the above matters** and the motion to approve the Research Committee minutes was **carried with one member dissenting**

**3. proposal for the establishment and naming of a new department within the School of Medical Sciences, the Department of Cancer Sciences.**

**This proposal was submitted to Senate, 25.05.2026 to seek Senate's comments and advice on any academic consequences.**

**Senate noted the establishment and naming of a new department within the School of Medical Sciences, the Department of Cancer Sciences, but did not offer any advice nor made comments, after which the proposal was approved by the Vice-Chancellor.**

**4. Draft Class Representation Policy and Procedures**

a) Draft Class Representation Policy and Procedures

b) Appendix A: Summary of feedback on Draft Class representation Policy and Procedures

c) Appendix B: Detailed comparison of current and proposed Class Representation Policy

d) Memorandum, 14.04.2026 from Matthew Lee, UG Education Vice-President, TRK AUSA regarding Class Representation Policy and Procedures

**After consideration by Senate, 25.05.2026, these were sent for approval to the Vice-Chancellor**

**5. Amendment to provide exemptions to the Enhancement and Evaluation of Teaching and Courses Policy and Procedures**

Memorandum, 05.02.2026 from the Manager, Academic Quality Office, Dr Hayward

**After consideration by Senate, 25.05.2026, this was sent for approval to the Vice-Chancellor**

**6. Under other Business** Concerns were raised regarding recent evacuation procedures in response to security incidents, including a lack of clarity for staff on how to respond and uncertainty about appropriate actions during non-fire-related evacuations. It was further noted that communication during the evacuation had been limited and that this had contributed to confusion among those affected.

In response, it was acknowledged that recent incidents formed part of a wider series of threats across Auckland, which had required precautionary action. It was noted that, while evacuation had been undertaken promptly, existing procedures were primarily designed for fire-related incidents and may not be fully suited to other types of emergencies. It was agreed that there was a need to further consider preparedness for a broader range of scenarios and to review communication and evacuation protocols accordingly.

**PART C: MATTERS RECEIVED AND APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

**1. CUAP AMENDMENT**

**Senate, 25.05.2026 advises Council that the following Amendments be approved for submission to CUAP:**

**Law**

2026-501	To re-size the Bachelor of Laws (Honours) component of the relevant conjoint degrees from 465 points to 405 points.
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**2. English Language Requirements for both undergraduate and postgraduate entry - Update of TOEFL iBT scores**

English-Rich Subject List (BNurs)

**Senate, 25.05.2026 advises Council that it approved the** English-Rich Subject List (BNurs)

## Hon Penny Simmonds

Minister for Tertiary Education  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology  
Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment



22 May 2026

Cecilia Tarrant  
Chancellor  
University of Auckland  
By email: [cecilia.tarrant@gmail.com](mailto:cecilia.tarrant@gmail.com)

PS1087

Dear Cecilia,

I would like to congratulate the University of Auckland on its 2025 audit result and acknowledge the strong financial and operational performance reflected in the year's annual reporting.

The University's continued growth in enrolments, strong operating position, and significant contribution to New Zealand's research and innovation system are important achievements. It is encouraging to see the institution continuing to attract both domestic and international students while maintaining a strong balance sheet and delivering positive financial results.

I also acknowledge the work undertaken across the University and its wider group during a period of organisational change, including the integration work involving UniServices. Maintaining effective governance and financial stewardship through periods of transition is important for ensuring the long-term strength of the institution.

The University of Auckland plays a critical role in supporting New Zealand's economic growth, developing highly skilled graduates, advancing research excellence, and strengthening New Zealand's international reputation.

I would also like to extend my best wishes to Professor Nic Smith as he prepares to commence as Vice Chancellor in August. Professor Smith brings extensive leadership experience from across New Zealand and internationally, and I wish him every success as he takes on this important role.

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to the University Council, leadership team, staff, and wider university community.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Simmonds'.

**Hon Penny Simmonds**  
**Minister for Tertiary Education**

c.c. Gillian Dudgeon – Acting Chief Executive Officer ([gillian.dudgeon@tec.govt.nz](mailto:gillian.dudgeon@tec.govt.nz))

10.1



## Internal Memorandum

Date: 25 May 2026  
 To: Wendy Verschaeren, w.verschaeren@auckland.ac.nz  
 From: Maselina Tufuga, m.tufuga@auckland.ac.nz  
 CC: Margaret Crannigan Allen, Margaret.allen@auckland.ac.nz  
 Subject: Rescindment of Degree

### Rescindment of degree and re-award with First Class Honours.

The following student was conferred their degree with no milestone as the milestone calculation was not undertaken before the student was made eligible to graduate.

This is to request that the earlier qualification be rescinded and re-awarded with the First Class Honours milestone as noted below.

To be rescinded:


Name	Qualification	New milestone
Xiurong Xu	Master of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages	No milestone

To be conferred:

Name	Qualification	New milestone
Xiurong Xu	Master of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages	First Class Honours

Nga mihi  
 The Graduation Office  
 Waipapa Taumata Rau | The University of Auckland



  
 The Clocktower  
 22 Princes Street  
 Auckland, New Zealand  
[W auckland.ac.nz](http://www.auckland.ac.nz)  
  
 University of Auckland  
 Private Bag 92019  
 Auckland 1142  
 New Zealand

## Memo

**To:** University Council  
**From:** Prof Simon Holdaway, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor (R&I)  
**Date:** 27 June 2026  
**Re:** Research Activities for Investment 2027

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This memo:

- **Recommends** that the draft response to the Research Activities for Investment in 2027 be approved for submission to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC).
- **Notes that** TEC have issued a Supplementary Plan Guidance and Research Activities Template that responds to priorities signalled in the 23 May 2025, Government Budget, that were not available when the Plan documents were prepared for Council.
- **Requests that** Council delegate to the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations) approval to make any minor typographical and presentational changes and adjustments to respond to the Supplementary Plan Guidance.

## Background

The Education and Training Act (2020), requires the University to submit a Plan with a three-year horizon to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). The University's current Plan was approved in 2025 for 2026 to 2028.

Late last year, the TEC released the Tertiary Education Strategy (TES) 2025-2030. While the University is not required to resubmit an Investment Plan in response to the new TES, as part of introducing the Tertiary Research Excellence Fund (TREF), all providers currently receiving Performance Based Research Fund funding need to provide a briefing of research activities that deliver on the new TES priorities (particularly *Economic Impact and Innovation* and *Integration and Collaboration*).

The purpose of this submission to TEC is to demonstrate:

- The University's institutional strengths and specialisations in research, including fundamental research activity, research-led teaching, and postgraduate provision,
- how external research funding will support the University's research activities,
- the University's proposed research outcomes and impacts, how you will measure them, and how you will navigate potential barriers and obstacles to achieving them.

This is supplementary to the approved Investment Plan, so will reference any initiatives that have already been outlined (particularly in section 3.4) rather than repeat them.

## **University of Auckland response to TEC document: *Research activities template for investment in 2027***

Describe:

- your institutional strengths and specialisations in research, including fundamental research activity, research-led teaching, and postgraduate provision,
- how external research funding will support your research activities, and
- your proposed research outcomes and impacts, how you will measure them, and how you will navigate potential barriers and obstacles to achieving them.

The University's research strengths span fundamental, applied and translational research across both STEM and HASS. We recently have undertaken a robust, academic-led process incorporating data analytics, external stakeholder interviews and internal dialogue and engagement to develop a portfolio of six Signature Research Areas (SRAs). These will provide a framework for strategic prioritisation of internal investment and for external narrative. Our SRAs will be launched formally in late June; placeholder names are as follows: Future Health – Technology that Helps us Thrive; Te puna ora o te mātauranga iwi taketake (The Future is Ancestral); Blue Pacific Futures; Frontier Technologies [e.g. AI, photonics, space, data science, advanced engineering]; Sustainable Energy Futures, and Public Knowledge, Public Trust: creating, communicating and activating knowledge for thriving societies.

Research-led teaching and postgraduate provision integrate students into active research environments and transdisciplinary collaborations through certificates, diplomas, master's and doctoral programmes. Professional development and short-course offerings support workforce upskilling in response to technological and societal change. Entrepreneurial capability and innovation are embedded into postgraduate training to prepare graduates for leadership across academia, industry and the public sector; in addition, our Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship provides a suite of programmes for undergraduate and postgraduate students that upskills them in the fundamental skills and knowledge essential for the entrepreneurial mindset. Currently, CIE engages with 15% of our student cohort; we would like to scale this up significantly and have the potential to consider how to offer aspects of this programme nationally. Initiatives such as the Applied Doctorate Scheme (Biotechnology & Bioprocessing theme opening in 2027) and Joint Graduate Schools place students with industry partners and research institutes and Public Research Organisations, respectively, to strengthen knowledge exchange, co-operation and real-world application.

Constrained domestic funding poses a significant threat to the University's research activities. We are responding through the development of the SRAs; enhancing our capability in responding to mission-led, multi-institutional consortia; ensuring our capability that aligns with the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Technology is well positioned, and in strengthening our international networks. The University has

established strong networks in Horizon Europe, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and Erasmus and is well-positioned to pursue opportunities through leveraging talent and infrastructure into large-scale regional and global research initiatives.

Philanthropic investment plays a key role in supporting our research environment. Many of our research areas, such as the Liggins Institute, the George Mason Centre and the Centre for Brain Research demonstrate the University's ability to convert internationally-recognised research excellence into enduring philanthropic and strategic partnerships. The budget announcement of a cap on donor tax credits may have a significant impact on the philanthropic support we receive; we are working through the likely impact.

Research outcomes and impacts will be measured through research quality and impact indicators, external research income, postgraduate completions, commercialisation and IP outcomes, industry partnerships, international rankings, policy influence and wide-reaching contributions to community wellbeing. We recently have undertaken an analysis of non-traditional impact metrics; for example, we have shown that approximately 9.5 percent of our publications are cited in national or international policy documents, almost three times the global average, demonstrating engagement with evidence-based decision-making. Barriers to success include the low quality of non-traditional metrics (such as policy citations and commercialisation outcomes), making these labour-intensive to measure, a relative low level of visibility of our strengths and shared objectives with key external stakeholders and the challenges in recruiting outstanding international talent (remuneration, visa settings). The SRAs will provide both a strategic framework for internal funding priorities while also establishing clear front-door themes for external funding, research collaborations and clarity of purpose for industry, community and public sector partners.

Describe the activities you will undertake relevant to your role in the research system. Include what steps you will take to implement these activities, and any measures you may use to evaluate the activities:

- approaches to industry collaboration, knowledge transfer, and research commercialisation,
- engagement with end-users, including industries and employers, iwi, and communities,
- international collaborations and partnerships, regional and national collaborations with industry, public research organisations (PROs), and other TEOs in the broader science, innovation and technology sector,
- research workforce development and strategies to increase research intensity, including increasing externally-funded research activity, and
- exploring the distinct contributions of Mātauranga Māori and Pacific research to national and global challenges and scholarship.

We have numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing industry collaboration, knowledge transfer and commercialisation: development of our Innovation and Enterprise Operating model, aimed at creating a highly visible, front door through which industry

and other external stakeholders can access university capability; roll-out of InfinityX, a platform providing visibility of all of our research infrastructure and how to access it; further investment in the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship; ongoing development of MedTech-iQ; launch of the Bruce McLaren Centre for High Performance Engineering; UniServices' *The Lighthouse* commercialisation hub, which supports multiple pathways (Return On Science for deep-tech commercialisation, Momentum for young founders and Te Kōara for Māori-led commercialisation), and ongoing activation of the Newmarket Innovation Precinct, which currently hosts 48 start-up companies. These initiatives connect researchers, students and industry partners to accelerate translational research and support high-growth sectors. Success will be evidenced through UniServices' KPIs, which capture several measures of commercialisation and external revenue generation, and monitoring of measures of industry partnership (publications, funding, postgraduate students). The University was ranked the leading research and innovation institution in New Zealand and Australia for active start-ups and spin-out companies over the three years to 2025 in the Survey of Commercialisation Outcomes from Public Research and was named the 2025 Innovative and Entrepreneurial University of the Year by the Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities.

The University of Auckland has broad and deep international connections; our internationalisation framework aims to ensure these are increasingly strategic in nature. We are sought after by European partners and currently participate in five Horizon Europe Pillar 2 programmes across arts and humanities, environmental impacts and personalised healthcare and are building on our European links, including with the French National Centre for Scientific Research. We chair the United Nations Academic Impact Hub for SDG 8, are formally recognised as a WHO Collaborating Centre, with a primary focus on the nexus between non-communicable diseases and the climate crisis, through Te Poutoko aiga (Centre for Global and Pacific Health) and are a founding member of the Universitas21 Nature Positive Coalition. In addition to Universitas21, we are members of the Worldwide University Network and the Asia Pacific Rim Universities Network, both of which provide huge opportunities for international collaboration.

Research workforce development remains a major priority. Internal investment from PBRF funds supports researcher capability, ethics and integrity systems, trusted research frameworks, infrastructure and support services. A future academic workforce strategy is underway to develop career pathways that strengthen academic excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, industry engagement and partnership development for large-scale research consortia. Enterprise-wide research platform initiatives are also increasing access to specialist facilities and opportunities for collaboration with external partners and commercial users. Doctoral students are the engine of our workforce; ~50% of these are international and we are assessing the likely impact of the recently-announced cap on international doctoral students.

The University is committed to advancing the distinct contributions of Mātauranga Māori and Pacific research to national and global scholarship. With the largest

concentration of Māori researchers in Aotearoa New Zealand, the University supports impactful partnerships with iwi, hapū and Māori organisations through Te Whare Rangahau o Himi Henare | The James Henare Research Centre and the Kōtuitanga strategic agreement with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. Research approaches are informed by Vision Mātauranga principles, Māori Data Sovereignty, indigenous methodologies and shared governance models.

Pacific staff and student capability is being strengthened through initiatives such as Fofonga for Pacific Research Excellence and the University Research Centres MĀPIHI (Māori and Pacific Housing Research Centre) and Te Poutoko Ora a Kiwa | Centre for Pacific and Global Health. Two of our new SRAs will highlight and support Indigenous and Pacific Research. These initiatives demonstrate the University's commitment to community-connected, transdisciplinary research grounded in Māori and Pacific aspirations while contributing to sustainable development, social wellbeing and inclusive innovation.

Tertiary Education  
Commission  
Te Amorangi Mātauranga Matua



## Research activities template For Investment in 2027

# Research-related activities

## What to know

As part of introducing the Tertiary Research Excellence Fund (TREF), all providers currently receiving Performance Based Research Fund funding need to provide information about their research activities, either through their Strategic Intent or through this template. **This template is only required if you are currently receiving the Performance-Based Research Fund and you are not submitting an Investment Plan for 2027-2029.**

For relevant organisations, participation in the research system is a core part of how you deliver on the TES priorities (particularly *Economic Impact and Innovation* and *Integration and Collaboration*). We recognise that different TEOs carry out a wide range of different research activities appropriate to their mission and role within the New Zealand research system.

Please use this template to describe the activities you undertake as part of the research system, including all research-relevant activity however it is funded.

For more information about the TREF, see Plan Guidance for 2027 investment.

Complete the content below and submit to DXP Ngā Kete by 3 July 2026 using the following format:

- Document type – Investment Documents
- Document subtype – Other
- Subject – Research activities information for 2027 investment

## What to include

*Recommended maximum 1,000 words.*

Describe:

- › your institutional strengths and specialisations in research, including fundamental research activity, research-led teaching, and postgraduate provision,
- › how external research funding will support your research activities, and
- › your proposed research outcomes and impacts, how you will measure them, and how you will navigate potential barriers and obstacles to achieving them.

Describe the activities you will undertake relevant to your role in the research system. Include what steps you will take to implement these activities, and any measures you may use to evaluate the activities:

- › approaches to industry collaboration, knowledge transfer, and research commercialisation,
- › engagement with end-users, including industries and employers, iwi, and communities,
- › international collaborations and partnerships, regional and national collaborations with industry, public research organisations (PROs), and other TEOs in the broader science, innovation and technology sector,
- › research workforce development and strategies to increase research intensity, including increasing externally-funded research activity, and
- › exploring the distinct contributions of Mātauranga Māori and Pacific research to national and global challenges and scholarship.